



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

set an example generally followed by his successors, though Edward III. went so far as to plan a visit in 1332. Edward I., both as prince and as king, was an absentee, and his high talents as a ruler had small effect in Ireland; yet his reign "was in fact the culminating period of the whole Anglo-Norman epoch", and the long decline began with the invasion of Edward Bruce in 1315. It was characteristic of Edward I. that he should seek to introduce English law into Ireland as into Wales, "because the laws which the Irish use are detestable to God, and so contrary to all law that they ought not to be deemed laws". The impracticability of such a measure is clearly recognized by Mr. Orpen, who points out that by the fourteenth century the question became rather how to prevent the resident English from adopting Irish law. In law, as in everything else, Ireland was but half conquered. The first parliament was held in 1297; that of 1310 passed many ordinances which, as an annalist remarks, "would have been very useful had they been observed".

Most readers will find the chief interest in the concluding chapter, where the author enlarges the survey of One Hundred and Sixty Years of Norman Rule which he began in the second volume and continued in an article in this *Review* (XIX. 245-256). It is illuminating to bring the Norman conquest of Ireland into the same perspective as the conquest of England and Sicily. While declaring that Henry II. "had a better title to Ireland than his great-grandfather had to England", Mr. Orpen has no illusions as to the "veneer of legality" which covered Norman self-seeking. Keeping strictly to the Middle Ages, he distinguishes sharply the indirect and remote consequences of Anglo-Norman domination from the more direct and immediate results, which he finds distinctly beneficent as contrasted with the "two centuries of retrogression, stagnation, and comparative anarchy" which followed. In particular the material progress of the country is shown by fresh evidence; even in a matter like coinage the absence of earlier Irish mints assured an advance over the earlier period which Professor Oman has denied to the Norman conquest of England. On the inherent weaknesses of the English occupation the author is less informing. The chief of these, as he sees it, was the persistence of Celtic tribalism alongside a decaying feudalism. But that is another story, which needs to be worked out for the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in a continuation which Mr. Orpen is best qualified to write. Such a work will supply useful material for comparative study of the results of Norman conquest in general, as well as the indispensable background for Tudor policy in Ireland.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

Weltgeschichte in gemeinverständlicher Darstellung. In Verbindung mit . . . herausgegeben von LUDO MORITZ HARTMANN. Band V. *Das Späte Mittelalter.* Von KURT KASER. (Gotha: Friedrich Andreas Perthes A.-G. 1921. Pp. vi, 278. M. 24.)

THIS is the fifth volume of the Hartmann *Weltgeschichte*, twice be-

fore mentioned in these pages (XXV. 641; XXVI. 495). The volume now under consideration covers the period from the death of Frederick II. through the Renaissance, to about 1517, in six sections of several chapters each. The first section, on State and Church in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, treats of the papal relations with France, England, and the Empire, the condition of the Empire, and the Italian political world from 1200 to 1400. This is succeeded by a section on economic developments—the commercial predominance of Italy, the growth of capitalistic enterprise there, the activities of the Germans in the field of world-trade to the close of the fourteenth century. Next comes a long section on the erection of strong monarchical states in Western Europe—two chapters each on France and England, one on the Hundred Years' War, and one on Spain, to about 1500. The fourth section deals with the sixteenth-century situation in Central and Eastern Europe, the Imperial and French rivalry for control of the Italian Peninsula, the Turks, and the foundation of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The fifth section, like the third, is entirely devoted to economic affairs: the loss of commercial supremacy by the Italians, capitalistic developments in Germany and in the Netherlands, capitalism in its wider aspects as a new force with profound effects on Church, State, and society, have a chapter each. The final section, given up to the Church at the close of the Middle Ages, sweeps the reader through the Babylonian Captivity, the schism, the councils, the situation of the papacy on the eve of the Reformation, and, somewhat out of breath, into eight pages on the Renaissance, where it leaves him wondering how much of the next volume, by the same author, will be devoted to the intellectual movement here so briefly discussed.

The bibliographical lists are even shorter than in the volume on the early Middle Ages by Hellmann. Preceding each section there is a short list of secondary authorities on that particular field. As for sources, the reader is rather curtly recommended to Herre and Dahlmann-Waitz. A chronological table of important events covers two pages. There is no index.

As in Hellmann's volume, the broad currents only are emphasized, here with singularly successful freedom from detail and in the main with a sure hand. Quite the most admirable portions of the book are the two sections on economic conditions and progress. Suggestive, excellent in balance, they present not uncritically the conclusions of many specialists. These sections alone, if the work were in English, would place the volume in general use. There are other pages and passages of interpretation of a similarly striking character that should prove to be deeply interesting to a casual reader of history, if there be any by whom a work in German could be used. In any *Weltgeschichte* necessarily and intentionally compressed within very limited space, an author is bound here and there to make general statements of his point of view

without full opportunity of proof, perhaps even of discussion. Such statements are arresting, provocative, therefore valuable to the informed reader, and questionable, therefore often dangerous to the uninformed. The following quotations will illustrate: "Der Kapitalismus mit seiner ausgebildeten, harten Kreditwirtschaft, seinem rast- und grenzelosen Erwerbsstreben, ist ein Element jener geistigen Revolution, die sich im 13. Jahrhundert gegen die Kirche erhebt" (p. 57); "Ludwig XI. und Richard III. umgibt der Blutgeruch der italienischen Renaissance" (p. 270).

Both press-work and proof-reading are vastly better than in the preceding volume. Kaser has set a good standard for his own book on the period to 1789, probably now ready, and for the numerous other volumes projected for the series.

E. H. B.

Le Cardinal Nicholas de Cues, 1401-1464: l'Action, la Pensée.

Par EDMOND VANSTENBERGHE, Docteur ès Lettres et en Théologie. (Paris: Édouard Champion. 1920. Pp. xix, 506. 35 fr.)

THIS biographical study of Nicholas of Cusa is of very timely interest to everyone who cares for historical analogies. Cusa's manifold activities were synchronous with the life of the Council of Basel and with the extraordinary reactions of European politics that followed it. The slower pace of political development as compared with the fevered rush of affairs to-day cannot conceal the striking similarities between that great Congress of Nations and the deliberations of the Powers since the armistice of 1918. Then as now there were vast programmes of reconstruction inspired by the loftiest idealism; there were prophets of a new time preaching the gospel of a triumphant democracy; and then as now there were the cruel facts of an unregenerate world blocking every specific reform and calling for "practical" measures of delay and compromise.

Nicholas of Cues, son of a Moselle bargeman, precocious scholar, Heidelberg student, doctor in canon law at Padua, secretary to a papal legate in Germany, ardent collector of classical manuscripts, and correspondent of all the chief Italian humanists, enthusiastic member of the Council of Basel and then its most determined opponent, finally cardinal of the reforming pope Nicholas V. and his most active agent in bringing the restless churches of the North into line with the papal policy—was the very embodiment of his time. Dr. Vansteenberghe has drawn for us a very attractive picture of his hero. It is sympathetic without being adulatory, critical in the best sense but not faultfinding. The book is divided into two main sections of almost precisely equal length, under the headings of "Action" and "Thought". In the former we are given a survey of Nicholas's course of life with especial emphasis upon those phases which distinctly characterize his relation to public events.